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24 Sept 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Subject: Recommendation by the Executive Secretary to  
the National Security Council Regarding  
Psychological Warfare

Enclosure: (A) Proposed text of recommendation to the  
National Security Council regarding  
Psychological Warfare

1. Forwarded herewith is a proposed text of a recommendation which I understand you desire to make to the National Security Council for the immediate creation of a central organization competent to operate and coordinate what is currently considered in many quarters as vitally needed psychological operations.

R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

DE/mhb  
I-23 Sept. 1947

C/R Psychological Warfare

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Subject: Immediate Need for U. S. Psychological Operations

1. On 13 June 1946 the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee (SWNCC) appointed an ad hoc committee with the directive:

"to review World War II efforts in psychological warfare, to study and report on the future status of psychological warfare, and recommend:

- a. a peace-time organization for keeping psychological in a ready-for-mobilization status; warfare/~~active~~
- b. a war-time psychological organization;
- c. both organizations to be assigned such directives as will insure effective planning, coordinating, and implementation, particularly with respect to the integration of national psychological warfare with military plans."

2. The first of the conclusions of that committee is that:

"psychological warfare is an essential factor in the achievement of national aims and military objectives in time of war, or threat of war, as determined by the President."

3. The principal recommendation of the committee is:

"the immediate establishment of a committee with full-time representation from appropriate governmental agencies to serve as an agency charged with the preparation of psychological warfare policies, plans, and studies for implementation in time of war, or threat of war, as determined by the President."

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Enclosure (A)

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4. To assist the implementation of this recommendation the committee prepared and attached as Appendix "A" to its report the text of a chapter for such an agency.

5. Experience during the war established the need for a central operating agency having the further responsibility for the coordination of the related activities of other departments and agencies of the Government.

6. What was at one time called psychological warfare appears to have been adopted by certain foreign states to serve and support their aims and objectives in the current after-war period. Successfully to counteract these operations in a positive and forceful manner, the U. S. will apparently have to adopt similar measures.

7. Whereas certain foreign governments have continued in effect their wartime psychological operations, the U. S. discontinued psychological warfare and dissolved its organization with the termination of hostilities.

8. Developments in the international picture since the creation by SWNCC of the ad hoc committee on psychological warfare and the writing of the terms of reference suggest that the National Security Council may now desire to recommend to the President the immediate creation of the proposed agency for the preparation of policies, plans, and studies and that a further step be taken by creating a national organization for the centralized operation and for the coordination of the related activities of the several departments and agencies of this Government.

9. It is therefore proposed that the National Security Council recommend to the President that:

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"immediate steps be taken by the National Security Council for the prompt creation of a central organization competently staffed on a basis of adequate and equitable interdepartmental representation at the policy forming level to perform under National Security Council guidance such psychological operations as may be necessary to influence the thought, morale, or behavior of foreign groups, peoples, states, and governments so as to support the accomplishment of our national aims."

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